

What is claimed:

1. A system for data collection, evaluation, information generation, and/or presentation comprising:

- 5 a data capture server capable of receiving data from a data source;
 one or more databases for receiving data from the data capture server;
 a plurality of processing modules in communication with each other and/or
 the one or more databases, each processing module performing a
 predefined operation on data stored in a database or received from
10 a processing module, at least two processing modules being
 selected from the group consisting of: a statistical analysis
 processing module; a data stabilizer processing module; a
 saturation limited forecasting module; a dynamic activity-level icon
 module; and an alarm filter module;
- 15 one or more databases in communication with one or more processing
 modules for storing processed data received from a selected
 processing module; and
 a presentation server in communication with one or more of the databases
 for receiving items of data stored therein and presenting selected
20 items of data.
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2. The system of claim 1 wherein the data capture server is in communication with a data source comprising one or more remote computer systems.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the data capture server is adapted to receive
5 data from computer systems of consumers following an online e-commerce transaction.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein at least three of said processing modules are selected.

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5. The system of claim 1 wherein four of the processing modules are selected.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein all five of the processing modules are selected.

15 7. The system of claim 3 wherein at least three of said processing modules are selected.

8. A system for data collection, evaluation, information generation, and/or presentation comprising:

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ad a data capture server capable of receiving data from a data source over a computer network, the data source providing data related to a transaction between buyers and sellers;

one or more databases for receiving data from the data capture server;
a plurality of processing modules in communication with each other and/or

one or more of the databases, each processing module performing
a predefined operation on data stored in a database or received
from a processing module, at least two processing modules being
selected from the group consisting of: a statistical analysis
processing module; a data stabilizer processing module; a
saturation limited forecasting module; a dynamic activity-level icon
module; and an alarm filter module;

one or more databases in communication with one or more processing
modules for storing processed data received from a selected
processing module; and
a presentation server in communication with one or more of the databases
for receiving items of data stored therein and presenting selected
items of data as data or information, data on the presentation
server being accessible to remote computer systems via a network.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the network over which the data source and
data capture server communicate is the Internet.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the presentation server is accessible by
remote computer systems via the Internet.

11. The system of claim 9 further comprising a survey server that serves a survey questionnaire to a remote computer system comprising a data source so that a user of a remote computer system comprising the data source can
5 complete the survey questionnaire; a completed survey questionnaire containing data supplied by the user being returnable to the data capture server over the Internet.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the remote computer systems comprise a
10 plurality of consumer computer systems and the completed survey questionnaire contains data about an online transaction between the consumer and a merchant.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein the remote computer systems comprise one
15 or more merchant computer systems.

14. The system of claim 10 wherein the remote computer systems comprise a plurality of consumer computer systems.

20 15. The system of claim 10 wherein the presentation server is accessible by a plurality of merchant and consumer computer systems.

16. The system of claim 10 wherein the presentation server serves data comprising ratings about online merchants, the ratings being based on data collected by the data capture server from consumer computer systems.

5 17. The system of claim 14 wherein at least three of the processing modules are selected.

18. The system of claim 1 wherein one selected processing module comprises a statistical analysis processing module and one selected processing module
10 comprises an alarm filter module.

19. The system of claim 1 wherein one selected processing module comprises a statistical analysis processing module and one selected processing module
15 comprises a dynamic activity-level icon module.

20. The system of claim 1 wherein one selected processing module comprises a statistical analysis processing module and one selected processing module
comprises a saturation limit forecasting module.


20 21. The system of claim 15 wherein one selected processing module comprises a statistical analysis processing module and one selected processing module
comprises a data stabilizer module.

22. The system of claim 15 wherein one selected processing module comprises a statistical analysis processing module and one selected processing module comprises an alarm filter module.

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23. The system of claim 15 wherein one selected processing module comprises a statistical analysis processing module and one selected processing module comprises a dynamic activity-level icon module.

10 24. The system of claim 15 wherein one selected processing module comprises a statistical analysis processing module and one selected processing module comprises a saturation limit forecasting module.

15  25. The system of claim 15 wherein one selected processing module comprises a statistical analysis processing module and one selected processing module comprises a data stabilizer module.

26. The system of claim 22 further comprising a data stabilizer processing module.

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27. The system of claim 23 further comprising an alarm filter processing module.

28. The system of claim 24 further comprising a data stabilizer processing module.

30. The system of claim 27 further comprising a data stabilizer processing
5 module.

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26 } ~~31. The system of claim 26 further comprising a dynamic activity-level icon
processing module.~~

10 32. The system of claim 11 wherein the presentation server includes the
survey server.

33. The system of claim 11 wherein the data capture server includes the
survey server.

15 34. The system of claim 11 wherein a single server includes the data capture
server, the presentation server and the survey server.

~~35.~~ A presentation server for serving web pages to a plurality of remote
20 computer systems over a network; the web pages including ratings information
for one or more merchants; the ratings information being derived from data

captured from buyer computer systems and processed by a data stabilizer processing module.

36. The presentation server of claim 34 wherein a web page further includes a
5 link to the website of a rated merchant.

37. The presentation server of claim 35 wherein the web page further includes a dynamic activity-level icon for showing the level of a predetermined activity at a rated merchant website.

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38. The presentation server of claim 36 wherein the web page further includes information about incentive programs offered to a user of a remote computer system.

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39. A presentation server for serving web pages via a network to a plurality of remote computer systems; one or more web pages including a dynamic activity-level icon for indicating a level of a predetermined activity at one or more predetermined websites.

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40. A web page of claim 39 including at least two dynamic activity-level icons, each being for competitive merchants and the web page is accessible by remote computer systems of consumers.

41. The presentation server of claim 39 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

5 42. The web page of claim 40 wherein the web page further includes a reference dynamic activity-level icon.

43. The presentation server of claim 40 wherein one or more dynamic activity-level icons on a web page are each associated with a link to a corresponding
10 merchant website.

44. The presentation server of claim 43 wherein the ratings for a merchant are also associated with the dynamic activity-level icon and the link to the merchant website.

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45. A web page of claim 39 that includes at least two dynamic activity-level icons, one indicating the level of a predefined activity for a merchant website, the other being a reference icon for indicating a predetermined level of the predefined activity, the web page being accessible by a consumer remote
20 computer system.

46. A presentation server for serving web pages via a network to a plurality of remote computer systems; one or more web pages including a dynamic activity-level icon for indicating a level of a predetermined activity for one or more products being sold by one or more merchants over a computer network.

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47. The presentation server of claim 46 wherein the presentation server makes the web pages accessible to consumer computer systems via a network comprising the Internet.

10 48. A presentation server that includes and serves a dynamic activity-level applet via a network to a plurality of remote computer systems, the applet enabling a remote computer system to access a data source that communicates data representative of a predefined activity level, the applet implementing a dynamic activity-level icon on a display of the remote computer system based on
15 and responsive to the data communicated to it.

49. The presentation server of claim 48 wherein the presentation server serves the applet to remote computer systems comprising consumer computer systems.

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50. The presentation server of claim 49 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

51. A method for data collection, evaluation, information generation, and/or presentation comprising:

capturing data from a data source in a data capture server;

transferring data from the data capture server to one or more databases for receiving data;

transferring data from the one or more databases to one or more processing modules, each processing module capable of performing a predefined operation on transferred data, at least two processing modules being selected from the group consisting of: a statistical analysis processing module; a data stabilizer processing module; a saturation limited forecasting module; a dynamic activity-level icon module; and an alarm filter module, the processing module outputting processed data or information;

presenting selected items of processed data or information via a presentation server.

52. The method of claim 51 wherein the data is transferred to the data capture server by one or more remote computer systems via a network.

53. The method of claim 51 wherein the captured data relates to e-commerce transactions.

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54. The method of claim 52 wherein the online transactions are consumer-merchant transactions.

5 55. The method of claim 52 wherein the online transactions are business to ~~business transactions.~~

56. The method of claim 52 wherein the data is transferred to the data capture server via consumer computer systems.

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57. The method of claim 51 wherein at least three of said processing modules are selected.

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58. The method of claim 51 wherein four of the processing modules are selected.

59. The method of claim 51 wherein all five of the processing modules are selected.

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60. The method of claim 54 wherein at least three of said processing modules are selected.

61. The method of claim 54 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

62. The method of claim 54 further comprising providing a survey server that serves a survey questionnaire to one or more remote computer systems

5 comprising data sources so that a user of a remote computer system comprising the data source can complete the survey questionnaire, a completed survey questionnaire containing data supplied by the user being returnable to the data capture server over the Internet.

10 63. The method of claim 62 wherein the one or more remote computer systems comprise a plurality of consumer computer systems and the completed survey questionnaire contains data about an online transaction between the consumer and a merchant.

15 64. The method of claim 54 wherein the remote computer systems comprise one or more merchant computer systems.

65. The method of claim 51 wherein the presentation server is accessible by a plurality of merchant computer systems.

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66. The method of claim 51 wherein the presentation server is accessible by a plurality of consumer computer systems.

67. The method of claim 66 wherein the presentation server serves data comprising ratings about online merchants.

5 68. The method of claim 67 wherein the ratings are derived from data collected by the data capture server from consumer computer systems.

69. A method comprising deriving ratings for one or more merchants using a data stabilizer, and serving web pages to a plurality of remote networked
10 computer systems, the web pages including the derived ratings information for one or more merchants.

70. The method of claim 69 wherein the served web pages further includes a link to the website of a rated merchant.

15 71. The method of claim 70 wherein the web page further includes a dynamic activity-level icon for showing the level of a predetermined activity at a rated merchant website.

20 72. The method of claim 70 wherein the web page further includes information about incentive programs offered to a user.

73. A method comprising associating one or more dynamic activity-level icons for indicating a level of a predetermined activity at one or more predetermined websites with one or more web pages, and serving the one or more web pages via a network to a plurality of remote computer systems.

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74. The method of claim 73 wherein a web page includes at least two dynamic activity-level icons, each being for competitive merchants and the web page is accessible by remote computer systems of consumers.

10 75. The method of claim 74 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

76. The method of claim 74 wherein the web page further includes a reference dynamic activity-level icon.

15 77. The method of claim 74 wherein one or more dynamic activity-level icons on a web page are each associated with a link to a corresponding merchant website.

20 78. The method of claim 77 wherein the ratings for a merchant are also associated with the dynamic activity-level icon and the link to the merchant website.

79. The method of claim 73 wherein a web page includes at least two dynamic activity-level icons, one indicating the level of a predefined activity for a merchant website, the other being a reference icon for indicating a predetermined level of the predefined activity, the web page being accessible by a consumer remote
5 computer system.

80. A method comprising serving web pages via a network comprising the Internet to a plurality of remote consumer computer systems; one or more web pages including a dynamic activity-level icon for indicating a level of a
10 predetermined activity for one or more products being sold by one or more merchants over a computer network.

81. The method of claim 80 wherein a web page includes at least two dynamic activity-level icons, each being for competitive merchants and the web page is
15 accessible by remote computer systems of consumers.

82. The method of claim 81 wherein the dynamic activity-level icons relate to relative buying activity at the merchant websites.

20 83. A method comprising serving a dynamic activity-level applet via a network to a plurality of remote computer systems, the applet enabling a remote computer system to access a data source that communicates data representative of a

predefined activity level, the applet implementing one or more dynamic activity-level icons on a display of the remote computer system based on and responsive to the data communicated to it.

5 84. The method of claim 83 wherein the presentation server serves the applet to remote computer systems comprising consumer computer systems.

85. The method of claim 84 further comprising communicating data to a consumer computer system with the applet for input into the applet, the applet
10 implementing the dynamic activity-level icon in accordance to the input data.

86. The method of claim 85 wherein the communicated data relates to activities at one or more merchant websites.

15 87. The method of claim 85 wherein the communicated data relates to relative buying activities at competitive merchant websites.

88. The method of claim 85 wherein the communicated data relates to activity levels for one or more of a product, product-type, and product category.

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89. A presentation server that includes web pages containing data or information that has been derived from at least two processing modules selected

from the group consisting of a statistical analysis processing module; a data stabilizer processing module; a saturation limited forecasting module; a dynamic activity-level icon module; and an alarm filter module, the web pages being accessible to a plurality of remote merchant systems over a computer network.

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90. A presentation server that includes web pages containing data or information that has been derived from at least two processing modules selected from the group consisting of a statistical analysis processing module; a data stabilizer processing module; a saturation limited forecasting module; a dynamic activity-level icon module; and an alarm filter module, the web pages being accessible to a plurality of remote consumer computer systems over a computer network.

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91. The presentation server of claim 89 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

92. The presentation server of claim 90 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

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93. The presentation server of claim 91 wherein the web pages include evaluation information about merchant performance, the information being derived from data processed by a selected processing module.

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95. The presentation of claim 90 wherein the web pages include ratings information for one or more products; the ratings information being derived from data captured from remote computer systems.

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